

History 210
Writing II: Historical Inquiry
Spring 2022

Instructor: **Dr. Bryan Brinkman**

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Office Hours: **MWF 1:15-2:15 PM (in-person and online)**

Office: **Strong 444**

Course Description

Introduction to historical research and writing. Meets Writing II requirement for a major in history. This course emphasizes the techniques of conducting a thorough literature search, the analysis of primary and secondary materials, and instruction and practice in historical writing.

Course Objectives and Goals

I. This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of historical research. This includes identifying a topic of inquiry, developing a research plan, conducting research on primary and secondary sources, outlining, editing, and writing argumentative and historiographic history papers.

II. This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of writing for the history discipline. This includes confronting concepts such as context, bias, and anachronism. Furthermore, this class will focus on the mechanisms of effective writing, such as employing accurate American English grammar, clear and concise language, and proper citing.

Course Requirements & Evaluation

Readings:

Textbook: Rampolla, Mary Lynn. 2018. *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*. Ninth Edition. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Additional readings will be made available online via Blackboard.

Evaluation:

Topic Proposal

25 points

Bibliography	75 points
Primary Source Assignments	125 points total
Article Review	125 points
Quizzes	150 points total
Perusall Annotation	150 points
Final Essay	350 points
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	1000 points total

Topic Proposal: Identify a research question that will form the basis for your research project/final essay. You will meet with me over Zoom to discuss your topic.

Bibliography: You will submit a list of primary and secondary (scholarly) sources that will inform your research project.

Primary Source Assignments: You will analyze primary sources and provide annotation.

Article Review: You will select and review a scholarly article.

Methods Quizzes: There will be six short quizzes based on a series of historical methods about which you will read throughout the term.

Reading and Perusall Annotation: There are a number of readings that you will collectively annotate using Perusall. You will be graded based on the quantity and quality of your annotations.

Essay Draft: You will turn in a draft of your final essay. You will be expected to address the comments made by me and to consider them in your final project. You will not be graded separately for your draft. However, part of the grade for your final essay will be contingent on addressing comments from the draft. If you do not submit a draft, you will not be eligible for these points on the final essay.

Final Essay: Your final research paper should be approximately 8 pages not including citations or your bibliography.

N.B. Late Assignments: Late assignments will be marked down 10% each day that they are late. They will not be accepted after 3 days.

Grading

93-100 = A	90-92 = A-	87-89 = B+	83-86 = B
80-82 = B-	77-79 = C+	73-76 = C	70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+	60-66 = D	0-59 = F	

All current University policies are available through the link “University Policies” on Blackboard. This course, its students, and instructor are subject to the policies stated there (<https://www.missouristate.edu/provost/bbsyllabus.htm>)

COVID CONTINGENCY

It is not anticipated that we will need to alter the schedule, should courses be disrupted during the semester due to COVID-19. If individual students are unable to complete assigned work on time due to illness or hospitalization, the student should contact me as soon as they are able to make arrangements.

PROVISIONAL CLASS SCHEDULE

Spring 2022

Our class schedule may change if we need to spend longer on certain topics, and/or if there are university cancelled classes for any reason. I reserve the right to update the syllabus as necessary. I will announce major changes via Blackboard announcements.

- **Content**
- **Assignments Due**
- **These readings require Perusall annotation**

Week (Mon-Fri)	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1: Jan 18-21	Introduction to Course What is History and Why Study it?	Rampolla 1a C. Bombar, Chapters 1 & 3	
2: Jan 24-28	Elements of Research	Rampolla 5a Turabian, Chapters 1 & 2	Methods Quiz on Primer: Defining World History (Due Friday)
3: Jan 31-Feb 4	Working with Sources: Primary Sources I	Rampolla 2a-2b Sharpe (Historian's Toolbox), Chapter 9	Methods Quiz on Analyzing Official Documents (Due Friday)
4: Feb 7-11	Working with Sources: Primary Sources II	Primary Source Collection Quebec Order, 7 July 1796	Methods Quiz on Analyzing Material Objects (Due Friday)

		Coin minted by Constantine Doing History, Chapter 4	*Meet with Dr. Brinkman during this week to discuss research topic.
5: Feb 14-18	Working with Sources: Secondary Sources	Info-Literate Historian, Chapter 2 Rampolla 5a	Primary Source Assignment (Due Friday) Research Topic Due Friday
6: Feb 23-25 (No Class Monday)	Working with Sources: Secondary Sources II	Info-Literate Historian, Chapter 3	Methods Quiz on Primer: Gender in World History (Due Friday)
7: Feb 28-March 4	Writing Conventions in History	Rampolla 5b-5g	Article Review (Due Friday)
8: March 7-11	Writing Conventions in History	Rampolla 7a-7d	Methods Quiz on Primer: Gender in World History (Due Friday)
9: March 14-20 (Spring Break: No Classes)			
10: March 21-25	Making an Argument	Rampolla 4a-4d Craft of Research, Chapter 7	Bibliography (Due Friday)
11: March 28-Apr 1	Writing and Style	Rampolla 6a-6c Elements of Style, Chapter 2	Methods Quiz on Primer: Comparative History (Due Friday)
12: Apr 4-8	Writing and Style II	Elements of Style, Chapter 7	
13: Apr 11-13 (April 14-17 Spring Holiday: No Classes)	Research and Writing		
14: Apr 18-22	Writing Period		Essay Draft Due
15: Apr 25-29	Writing Period		

16: May 2-6	Revision		*Meet with Dr. Brinkman during this week to discuss revision
17: May 9-11 (May 12: Last Day of Classes)	Revision		<u>Final Essay Due May 11</u>